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experience under the new law may hereafter disclose defects not now apparent." The figures tending to show cost, though most carefully prepared, and elaborately presented, are only provisionally useful; the real service of the commission, in this as in other respects, has been to prepare the way for the continuous work of the Accident Board. This is in fact the commission's own view of its mission,—a mission which it has most faithfully performed.

WILLIAM H. PRICE.

Yale University.

Scientific American Reference Book, 1913. Edited by Albert A. Hopkins and A. Russell Bond, Munn & Co., New York. Pp. 597. This book, which is somewhat larger and of more permanent value than the ordinary statistical almanac or year book, and rather less complete than a cyclopedia, consists of two distinct parts: I, "Statistical Information," and II, "Scientific Information." The former is that portion of the work which is of chief interest to statisticians. It is divided into sixteen chapters and occupies four hundred and fifty-six pages, crowded with tabulations and graphic representations of the latest data as well as those for a considerable period of time.

The chief topics which constitute chapter headings are as follows: "Population and Social Statistics; Farms, Foods, and Forests; Mines and Quarries; Manufactures; Commerce; Mercantile Marine; Railroads; The Panama Canal; Telegraphs and Cables; Wireless Telegraphy; Telephone Statistics of the World; Post Office Affairs; Patents, Trade Marks, and Copyrights; Armies of the World; Navies of the World; Aviation." These brief headings are inadequate to represent the vast amount and variety of information contained in the book, but a full index at the end of the volume, containing some seventeen hundred items, indicates the scope of the work and renders its use a matter of ease.

The data contained in the book are drawn from reliable official sources, and the editors have utilized the services of a large number of government officials and professional statisticians of established reputation in the preparation of the matter for publication.

Little has been attempted by the editors in the way of textual analysis or explanation. The tables are well constructed and the typography is excellent. In a few cases, however, in order to economize space, some of the charts and diagrams have been reduced to such small scale as to render the legends illegible. One may also feel inclined to criticize the very generous use of graphic devices of a popular, rather than a scientific character, to represent magnitudes not easily comprehended in the abstract, such as gigantic gas tanks, baskets, barrels, engines, etc.

On the whole, the book will be a useful aid to those who have neither the time nor the opportunity to consult the original sources of information.

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